become grey. The greater wing-coverts are broadly tipped sooty black as in the Gadwall. A further inexplicable feature in both hybrids is the presence of a few completely black axillaries on the left side only. The inference of this is that both birds are from the same brood, which would be highly likely.

SUMMARY

This paper describes a pair of wild Mallard x Gadwall hybrids. In almost all characters the birds demonstrate the principle that in some hybrids the characters are intermediate, with the exception of the curious blackish neck marking shown by the drake, and the presence of unilateral black axillaries in both hybrids.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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On the Kori Bustard, *Ardeotis kori* (Burchell) in north-western Tanzania

by A. M. Morgan-Davies

Received 23rd July, 1965

In the Serengeti National Park, where much of these observations were made, the Kori Bustard is a common species of the open plains between Seronera and the Ngorongoro Crater Highlands. The breeding season commences approximately with the onset of the long rains about February and continues till about early May, by which time most eggs will have hatched. On the 12th May 1965, I found two young that were probably not more than five days of age. The suspicious behaviour of the female, by walking in a crouched attitude, assured me she must have either eggs or young near at hand. We searched the area for twenty minutes with no success but noting the while the parent bird had made an almost complete half circle about us at fifty yards distance. This characteristic behaviour reassured us that she must have eggs, or more probably young. As continued search proved useless we decided to remain still in the hope of picking up the call of the chicks that we now felt certain there must be as there was no sign of eggs. Within five minutes we heard the faint but unmistakable call of a young bird close at hand and by slowly moving up after each successive call we came upon two downy chicks, whose cryptic coloration was so good it was only possible to see them at a distance of a few feet. Although the long rains had been over for but a few weeks, the countryside was already drying and the speckled tawny and black colouring of the chicks blended in well with the drying grass and black-cotton soil.

Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1957) have noted as being unrecorded,

the nestling plumage of the Kori Bustard and the description given here will now fill this gap. Above, tawny; head with a dark brown stripe from the eye to the upper forehead and from the upper forehead backwards towards the nape; crown mottled dark brown; neck with brown vertical stripes and a distinct dark throat patch extending down the front of the neck; upper parts heavily mottled with dark brown and black; below dull white mottled with brown on flanks; feet pinkish; bill pale grey; eyes brown. The distended throat is most noticeable. The chicks appeared not to feed from the ground but from head-height and I suspect at this early age their diet is predominantly insectile and much of their food is obtained by the parent bird.

Even at the age of a few days its precocious nature, behaviour and character are remarkably like the parent birds. It showed little sign of fear and stood in the palm of the hand with the haughty and aloof deportment so characteristic of an adult. Although I have only heard of one instance of the parent bird using threat postures and "growling", this behaviour does not appear to be common and the parent bird usually keeps a respectful distance from humans.

The remarkably few breeding records of the Kori Bustard are probably due to three reasons. The apparent preference of the species to lay on open grass-covered plains that, during this period of the year, are a sea of up to two to three feet high grass; the excellent coloration of the parent bird, of the eggs and of the young; and the incubating or attending parent bird's habit of immediately leaving its eggs or young at the slightest sign of danger or, alternatively, relying on its coloration and pressing itself as close as possible to the ground if taken by surprise at a close distance. There are two periods of the year when Kori Bustards congregate in

large numbers at a source of food. The first of these is most noticeable in the Serengeti National Park when the migration of thousands of wildebeest concentrate on the open eastern plains. The herds of moving wildebeest cause a constant scattering in all directions of insects, small rodents and lizards that are soon seized by the numerous attendant bustards that follow alongside the flanks of the migrating herds. Another source of food is provided by the numerous bush and grass fires so characteristic of East Africa. In this instance, accompanied by Marabou Storks, they either walk about the warm ashes in the lee of the advancing flames, picking out charred insects, or even keep a few feet ahead of the advancing flames gathering insects and other small creatures fleeing from the blaze. Although the Kori Bustard is a reluctant flyer it appears to travel many miles at this time of the year from one grass fire to another.

On *Rhipidura javanica* Sparrman in the Sunda Strait area

by A. HOOGERWERF

Received 20th January, 1964

A rather remarkable, though small, series of Fantail Flycatcher from the Sunda Strait formed the main reason for writing these notes from which it once more becomes evident how interesting this area between Java and Sumatra is.

When describing *Rhipidura longicauda* Alfred R. Wallace[5] mentions as differences from *Rhipidura javanica*, besides the long tail "narrow white tips to only three outer tailfeathers, and the black chin". But in the series (partly fresh) of both these subspecies studied by me, these characters are not very convincing though it cannot be denied that *longicauda* averages in having more often black on the chin than *javanica* and that none of this last race in my series has so much black on that area as have several *longicauda*. Of the white on the tail there is so much variation that this character cannot be accepted as of racial importance.

Perhaps those differences in the plumage are not recognized as of subspecific value by later authors, for Chasen and Kloss[2] are of the opinion that the two forms are not well defined but that birds from Borneo and Sumatra seem rather larger and, on a series, are generally duller on the upper parts, less reddish-brown on the rump and upper tail-coverts and less washed with brownish on the belly.

Later Boden Kloss[3], speaking of *javanica*, writes "it is a little more tinged with ferruginous above and below than *longicauda*". Mayr[4] writes about some Bornean birds classified by him as *longicauda* "these small birds might also be referred to typical *javanica*", from which it is evident that he did not find any difference in the plumage or did not attach any importance to it.

Though there is rather a lot of individual variation in the tint of the under parts, it cannot be denied that fresh as well as old *javanica* material averages in having more buffy in the white than is the case in *longicauda*. In our series this character is most obvious in young birds as is shown in some juveniles from Princes Island. Two skins from Sebesi and Legundi Islands are clearer white, but two birds obtained on Sangiang Island and one from Udjung Kulon fit in well with *javanica* in this respect. The black on the chin is absent or very little in nearly all Strait Sunda specimens,